

NewsCOR

Raleigh's Weekly Newsgram



RALEIGH GETS TO SAY 'THANKS' TO MAYOR MEEKER DEC. 3 TREE LIGHTING AMONG LAST OFFICIAL PUBLIC ACTS

Raleigh residents are invited to come out and say "thanks" to Mayor Charles Meeker when he lights the holiday tree on City Plaza. Lighting the tree at 8 p.m. on Dec. 3, will be one of Mayor Meeker's final official public acts in his decade of jam-packed service to the Capital City.

The tree lighting is part of the kickoff of AT&T Raleigh Winterfest, featuring a skating rink with natural ice in City Plaza on Fayetteville Street. In addition to showing gratitude to Mayor Meeker, kickoff attendees can start having fun at 5 p.m. with local artists and performers, sledding ramps, a trackless train, carriage rides and music from headliner the Breakfast Club and opening act Café Mars. The music plays on through 10 p.m. and the skating won't stop until 11 p.m.

The Downtown Raleigh Alliance, which is presenting Winterfest, is in need of volunteers for the Dec. 3 kickoff event and throughout the season.

The kickoff extravaganza will be followed by two months of additional programming on select dates at the AT&T Raleigh Winterfest Ice Rink, including Sledding Sundays, Two for One Tuesdays, Music Craze Wednesdays, Thursday Morning Stroller Skate Date, Skate Thursdays and Rock Around the Rink Fridays. For more information, visit www.raleighwinterfest.com or www.facebook.com/raleighwinterfest.

Associated Street Closures

A portion of the 400 block of Fayetteville Street from the south end of City Plaza to Davie Street will be closed from 9 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 2 through 2 a.m. on Dec. 4. The Marriott Hotel traffic circle will remain open.

The 300 block of Fayetteville Street and the 00 block of Davie Street will be closed from 6 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3 until 2 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 4.

In addition to the parking spaces along the streets listed above, all parking spaces on the portion of the 400 block of Fayetteville Streets from City Plaza to Lenoir Street will be encumbered from 6 a.m. on Dec. 3 through 2 a.m., Dec. 4.



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- City Wastewater Facility Manager Receives 2011 Hatfield Award
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DEC. 5 CEREMONY MARKS START OF 34TH RALEIGH CITY COUNCIL; NANCY MCFARLANE'S FIRST MAYORAL TERM

A swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected Mayor and City Council will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 5 in the Cabarrus Street lobby of the Raleigh Convention Center.

The installation will mark Nancy McFarlane's first term as Mayor of Raleigh and the 34th Raleigh City Council under the council/manager form of government. This will be the 20th City Council under the district system, with direct election of the Mayor.

Mayor-Elect McFarlane has represented District A on the Council for two terms, beginning in 2007. Currently she also is serving as Mayor Pro Tem.

District B representative John Odom brings the most experience to this Council, marking his eighth term of service. He represented District B from 1993 through 2003, returning to the office in 2009. He served as Mayor Pro Tem for the 1999-2001 Council and Deputy Mayor for the 2001-2003 term.

Thomas Crowder is the next most senior Council Member in terms of length of service. He has represented District D continuously since 2003.

Raleigh's at large representatives also are veterans, with Russ Stephenson returning for his fourth consecutive term and Mary-Ann Baldwin for her third. Ms. Baldwin also served in 2010 as Mayor Pro Tem.

Bonner Gaylord is beginning his second term representing District E on the Council.

While Eugene Weeks has been District C's voice on the Council for more than a year, the Dec. 5 ceremony will mark the beginning of his first full term. He was appointed to the Council in October 2010 to serve the unfinished term of James West. Dr. West was appointed to the Wake County Board of Commissioners in the autumn of 2010 to fill the unexpired term of Harold Webb.

The Council's only rookie is Randall K. Stagner, who begins his service to the City with his Dec. 5 swearing-in. Mr. Stagner certainly is no stranger to public service though, being a retired colonel in the U.S. Army.

The ceremony will mark the close of Charles Meeker's decade of service as Mayor. First elected Mayor in 2001, he served nine terms as a member of the Raleigh City Council, having served four terms as a Council Member being elected in 1985, 1987, 1991 and 1993. His five terms as Mayor tie him with the late Avery C. Upchurch as Raleigh's longest-serving Mayors. Mr. Upchurch served the City as Mayor from 1983 through 1993. He served two terms as a Council Member, 1979 through 1983.



Mayor-Elect Nancy McFarlane

HILLSBOROUGH STREET PUBLIC WORKSHOP SET FOR DEC. 13

The City of Raleigh is hosting a public workshop on possible improvements to a section of Hillsborough Street on Dec. 13 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Education Room of the First Church of Christ Scientist, located at 1400 Hillsborough St.

The City is planning to resurface Hillsborough Street between Oberlin Road and Morgan Street in 2012. The public is invited to identify and propose potential improvements that will enhance the corridor and safely accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Design options to be discussed include, but are not limited to, on-street parking, bicycle lanes and shared-lane markings.

People interested in attending the workshop can stop by at anytime during the event to talk with City of Raleigh staff, review possible roadway cross-sections, and provide ideas and comments. No registration is required.

For more information, contact Jennifer Baldwin in the City of Raleigh Office of Transportation Planning, at 516-2519 or email Jennifer.Baldwin@raleighnc.gov. To arrange for special accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact the City's Public Affairs Department at 996-3100 no later than 48 hours prior to the start of the workshop.

CITY OF RALEIGH PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT HOSTS MODEL WATER TOWER COMPETITION

Elementary and middle school students from Raleigh and other parts of the state will be participating in a model water tower competition sponsored by the North Carolina American Water Works Association-Water Environment Association. The students will be challenged to construct a functioning water tower that will hold at least one gallon of water and stand in a 12-inch square.

This year's contest, the third annual event, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon at the City of Raleigh's Neuse River Wastewater Treatment Plant, located at 8500 Battlebridge Road.

Students will be competing individually or on a team of up to four persons. The towers will be judged in five categories: hydraulic efficiency, cost efficiency, structural efficiency, design ingenuity and materials ingenuity. The competition is open to any elementary and middle school student in North Carolina. Forty-three (43) teams have pre-registered from all over the Triangle and from as far away as Edenton, Wilmington and Charlotte. Cash prizes of \$300, \$200, and \$100 are awarded to the first, second and third-place finishers, respectively. Funding for this year's competition is made possible by donations of \$500 each from the Crom Corporation and Hazen and Sawyer, P.C.

The model water tower competition was created in 2004 by Tod Phinney, then with the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association. In 2008, the competition was brought to the North Carolina American Water Works Association-Water Environment Association.

The water tower competition is intended to provide information to youth about water resource engineering, infrastructure, water and wastewater treatment and water conservation in hopes that some will become future water professionals.

The media is welcome to attend Saturday's model water tower competition. For more information, contact event organizer Chris Belk at (919) 755-8637 or email cbelk@hazenandsawyer.com.



CITY WASTEWATER FACILITY MANAGER RECEIVES 2011 HATFIELD AWARD

John Gibson, the City of Raleigh's wastewater facility manager at the Smith Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, has been selected as the 2011 North Carolina recipient of the Water Environment Federation's William D. Hatfield Award. This award is presented to operators of wastewater treatment plants for outstanding performance and professional commitment to the water industry.

Mr. Gibson was presented the award at the annual conference of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Water Works Association-Water Environment Association (NC AWWA-WEA) in Concord on Nov. 16.

A 6-year veteran of the City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department, Mr. Gibson has served as wastewater facility manager at the Smith Creek Wastewater Plant since the Town of Wake Forest merged its utility with the City of Raleigh's in 2005. Mr. Gibson has been a member of the Smith Creek plant since 1994.

Mr. Gibson has been very active over the years in giving back to the profession through his volunteer work with the North Carolina Chapter of the American Water Works Association-Water Environment Association by teaching at wastewater schools and being an active member of their communications committee. He has assembled a professional staff that works hard to achieve regulatory compliance. The Smith Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant recently was awarded a Platinum 6 Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies for six straight years of 100 percent compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. "Mr. Gibson's knowledge and leadership are tremendous assets to the City of Raleigh and his profession," said John Carman, the City's public utilities director.

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, ADULTS NEEDED FOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The International Affairs Council in Raleigh is recruiting high school students and adults from the Triangle area to participate in a special exchange program with central Europe next summer.

Students and adults from central Europe are scheduled to travel to the United States for a two-week visit in July. Students and adults from the United States will in turn visit central Europe in early August.

For more information about the exchange program, visit the council's website at <http://iacnc.org> or call 838-9191.

HOLIDAY SEASON NO TIME TO REST FOR

CONVENTION CENTER

One of the largest events of the year returns to Raleigh during a busy holiday season for the Raleigh Convention and Conference Center. The Champion Cheer and Dance competition will be held on Dec. 17 and is expected to draw more than 3,000 people. Other events this month include:

- Dec. 2 through Dec. 4 – A Carolina Christmas Show will be held at the convention center. More than 3,000 people are expected to attend;
- Dec. 5 – The City of Raleigh Mayor and Council Inauguration will be held at the center. More than 300 people are expected to attend;
- Dec. 7 – The Pepsi Bottling Venture Annual Sales Meeting will be in Downtown Raleigh. It is expected to draw more than 350 people;
- Dec. 10 – The 50th Celebration Wake Med Foundation Society Gala will be held at the convention center. The event is expected to draw more than 2,000 people;
- Dec. 15 – The Golden Years Banquet will be held at the convention center. It is expected to draw more than 1,200 people; and,
- December 17 – The Cree Winter Party will be held in Raleigh. The event is expected to draw more than 1,000 people.

RALEIGH'S SISTER CITIES' HOLIDAY MARKET SET FOR DEC. 10 AT SEABOARD STATION

The 2011 International Holiday Market and Silent Auction will be held Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Shops at Seaboard Station just off Peace Street, near Logan's Garden Center. The market and auction feature booths from each of Raleigh's Sister Cities. The booths will feature tents for each sister city featuring delicacies of the regions: Tea, hot cider, coffee, hot chocolate, fresh baked goods, crepes, chocolates, and a variety of specialty gift items.

Kris Kringle, straight from Germany, will join the fun and will be available to pose for photographs. Photographers will be asked to make a donation. That means goods and goodies from Great Britain, France, Germany, and China. The silent auction will feature items from The Shops at Seaboard and surrounding community businesses.

Raleigh Sister Cities is a non-profit organization started in 1983 to promote citizen diplomacy and respect for all people throughout the world through mutual understanding, one person, one community at a time. Today Raleigh has active programs with Sister Cities in Kingston-upon-Hull, England; Compiegne, France; Rostock, Germany; and Xiangfan, China.

For further information, please contact Gretchen Chapman, president, Raleigh Sister Cities, 828-2276

FIVE POINTS DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT

PROJECT MEETING SET FOR DEC. 15

The City of Raleigh is currently working to improve existing storm drainage in the Five Points area. The City is gathering information for preparation of the existing drainage system analysis including City-maintained pipes and ditches. A public meeting will be held on Dec. 15 to discuss the scope of the proposed drainage study, the timeframe for the completion of the project and to answer any questions residents might have.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church located at 714 E. Whitaker Mill Road. Attendees can meet with the staff from both the City of Raleigh and W.K. Dickson, the engineering consultant, to ask questions and address concerns. A questionnaire was sent to residents in the Five Points area and those attending the meeting were asked to complete and bring it with them to the meeting.

For more information, contact Cordis Thompson at 996-3030.

CITY COLLECTING USED GREASE, COOKING OIL

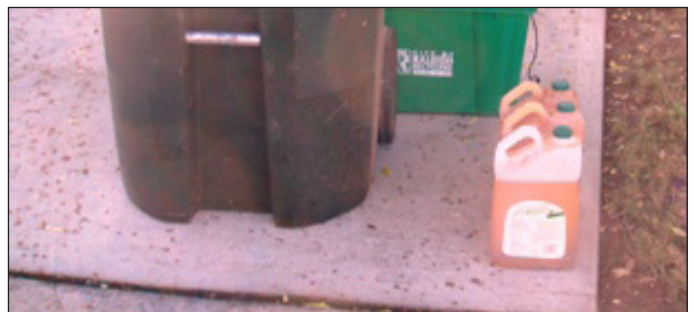
Looking for a way to get rid of all that cooking oil and grease left over from your holiday dinner? You can take advantage of the City of Raleigh's curbside grease collection program.

For the third consecutive year, the City of Raleigh is collecting used grease and oils from residences and places of worship in the Capital City during the holiday season. To arrange for curbside collection of these materials, call the City's Solid Waste Services Department at 996-6890.

The City of Raleigh is collecting the unwanted grease or cooking oil at no charge. The collected grease is converted to biofuels by Triangle Biofuels Industries.

The goal of the curbside grease collection program is to protect the environment by keeping cooking grease out of the City's sewer system and preventing sewer overflows. In order to be collected, the oil must be placed in a sealable and preferably clear plastic container marked as "used cooking oil." The curbside grease collection program ends on Jan. 13.

ARTISTS INVITED TO SUBMIT



QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC ART AT WILDERS GROVE FACILITY

The City of Raleigh is seeking qualifications from artists or artist teams in North Carolina to provide site-specific public art for the Wilders Grove Solid Waste Services (SWS) Operations Center. The center, scheduled to open in December, will serve as the department's headquarters.

The public art project budget for the new facility is \$29,447, inclusive of all expenses including design, fabrication, installation, travel, taxes and fees. Qualifications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16. There is no fee to submit qualifications.

The Wilders Grove SWS Operations Center is being built on the site of the closed Wilder's Grove landfill off of New Bern Avenue in east Raleigh. At approximately 24,000 square feet, the new facility is expected to attain Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. A main focus of the design and construction has been to incorporate materials with recycled content and divert materials from the landfill. Other initiatives include rain harvesting using rain barrels and the use of a compost bin. These items will be highlighted within a demonstration garden at the entry to the administration building, which will also house educational displays and classroom space for educational programs.

Public art at selected City of Raleigh sites is authorized by the Half Percent for Art Ordinance adopted by the City Council in 2009 and implemented by the City's Public Art and Design Board and the City's Arts Commission. The Wilder's Grove Solid Waste Services Operations Center has been selected for public art based on its educational opportunities and public accessibility through its programs for environmental sustainability.

RALEIGH YARD WASTE CENTER EXTENDS BOGO MULCH COUPON

The City of Raleigh Yard Waste Center has extended the special buy-one-get-one coupon offer for mulch and leaf mulch.

Customers to the Yard Waste Center that purchase a pickup truck load of mulch or leaf mulch and present the coupon may return for a free load the same day. A pickup truck load is approximately 2.5 yards. Compost, wood chips and colored mulch are not a part of this offer. The purchased and free loads must be picked up on the same day.

Coupons are available in the Saturday Home and Garden section of the News and Observer on Dec. 10 and Dec. 17. Coupons also are available at the City of Raleigh Yard Waste Center, 900 North New Hope Road. The Yard Waste Center is open Monday through Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The coupon may also be downloaded by visiting the City of Raleigh website at

www.raleighnc.gov and entering "mulch coupon" into the what are you looking for search box on the top right corner of the homepage

Adding two to three inches of mulch around trees or shrubs reduces water loss from the soil through evaporation. A layer of mulch serves as an insulator that moderates the soil temperature during intensely hot days. Mulch can prevent crust from forming on the soil surface, which improves the ability of water to percolate into the soil. Mulch suppresses weeds, and can help gardeners reduce their use of herbicides. Natural mulch, such as that made from yard waste, adds nutrients to the soil as it decays. Proper application of mulch can help homeowners save money and protect surface waters by reducing the use of chemical fertilizers.

For questions or for more information, call the City of Raleigh Yard Waste Center at 250-2728.

FOLLOW THE CITY OF RALEIGH ON TWITTER

Looking for the most up-to-date information from the City of Raleigh? Follow your local government via Twitter!

Twitter is a free service that allows you to "follow" people or subjects via short, frequent updates. The City of Raleigh now offers Twitter users the opportunity to stay informed about the latest news and breaking events. To join in, visit www.twitter.com and get started with a few simple steps. Once you have an active account, you can elect to "follow" any of the City's twitter accounts.

Currently, the City maintains the following accounts:

RaleighGov - This feed features links to any news releases and alerts issued by the City of Raleigh;

RaleighBPAC - This feed features information from the City of Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

RaleighParks - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department;

RalCommServices - City of Raleigh Community Services Department

CORTraffic - This feed features scheduled road closings due to construction or road races in the City of Raleigh; and,

RW911 - this feed features traffic accidents reported to the Emergency Communications Center.

RaleighGoGreen - this feed features news and information from the City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services Department Recycling program

To follow any of these, simply choose "Find People" from your Twitter home page and type in the account name you are interested in and then click "follow." It's that easy.



CITY OF RALEIGH ON FACEBOOK

City of Raleigh - The main City of Raleigh Facebook page keeps you informed about events, holidays and other news items.

City of Raleigh Planning and Development - The Raleigh Planning and Development page provides guidance for the growth, preservation and development of the City of Raleigh in order to maintain a community of lasting value.

Community Services Department - The Community Services Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

Emergency Communications - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagements and other 911 related happenings.

Raleigh Police Department - The Raleigh Police Department Facebook page focuses on public safety. Posts concerning crime alerts, missing people, requests for citizen assistance and more.

TRAFFIC ALERTS

FOR MORE CITY OF RALEIGH NEWS AND UPDATES ON ROAD CLOSURES, PARADES AND ROAD RACES, VISIT THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.RALEIGHNC.GOV

ROAD RACES

December 3 Traffic will be affected downtown for a road race.

STREET CLOSINGS

December 3 A portion of the 400 block of Fayetteville Street from the south end of City Plaza to Davie Street will be closed from 9 a.m. on Dec. 2 until 2 a.m. on Dec. 4 The 300 block of Fayetteville Street and the 00 block of Davie Street will be closed from 6 a.m. on Dec. 3 until 2 a.m. on Dec. 4

The traffic circle at Falls River Avenue, Dunn Road, and Cokesberry Lane will be closed from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

December 31 The 00 block of Edenton Street will be closed from 3 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. on December 31. The 100 and 200 blocks of Fayetteville Street and the 00 block of Hargett Street will be closed from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Jan. 1 The 300 and 400 blocks of Fayetteville Street will be closed from 6 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Jan. 1. Also, the 00 blocks of Martin and Davie Streets will be closed from 6 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Jan. 1. The 00 block of Lenoir Street will be closed for for approximately 30 minutes at 7 p.m. and at 11 p.m.



For information on downtown events visit the Downtown Raleigh Alliance website at www.godowntownraleigh.com and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.visitraleigh.com.

NewsCOR is also available electronically. Please contact the City of Raleigh Public Affairs Department at 996-3100 if you would prefer to receive NewsCOR by email.